AMERICORPS/AMERICORPS VISTA

There's a Place for Everyone

- AmeriCorps projects welcome members who may have disabilities, and provide supports and accommodations.
- AmeriCorps positions can fit the schedules of people with disabilities. Positions are term limited and members work for specified periods of time, i.e. 1700 hrs, 900 hrs, 450 hrs. Terms can be what's best for the person.
- AmeriCorps has new positions open every year. Placement opportunities are almost always available.
- Accommodations are comprehensive. Accommodations can be provided in helping with the application process, in the way work is done and in getting other benefits of national service, e.g., training, staff gatherings, leadership opportunities.
- AmeriCorps members get tangible benefits. Benefits include: a living allowance, help with college costs and student loans, access to health insurance, child care, etc.
- AmeriCorps members get supportive supervision. AmeriCorps staff understands the meaning of people-first.
- People with Disabilities applying for AmeriCorps membership have a great support network. The Arizona National Service Inclusion Work Team, including Arizona Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation services, Independent Living Centers, Self-advocacy organizations, Technology Access Project, Institute for Human Development/NAU, and others was set up to help.
- AmeriCorps members are trained for real jobs. Members and volunteers get training in jobrelated skills, social skills, and life skills. Members learn teamwork, communication, responsibility, and other essential skills that will help for the rest of their life.
- AmeriCorps members do real jobs. For instance, members help with fundraising, help families complete applications for low cost health insurance, coordinate healthy living seminars with diet and exercise, register people for library cards, recruit and train community volunteers to tutor and read to both children and adults, build houses. One member says "After my term ends, I plan to continue college and get my BA degree. Eventually, I want to start a non profit organization of some type so I can further help my community."
- AmeriCorps alumni often choose careers in human services.
- AmeriCorps alumni credit their experience in National Service with helping them get their human services job.

AmeriCorps: A Pathway to Education and Employment.